MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : Is not the Koran taught in all primary schools ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, in all schools in which there is a sufficient number of Muslim children.

Marma Vaidyasala at Kattathura.

240. ✻ **MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF** (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the year when grant-in-aid was given to the Marma Vaidyasala at Kattathura ;

(*b*) whether it is not the first of the Marma Vaidyasals in the State ;

(*c*) whether there is any other grant-in-aid Marma Vaidyasala in the State, and, if so, how many ;

(*d*) whether the Kattathura Marma Vaidyasala was at any time recommended to be raised into a grant-in-aid hospital ;

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) is in the affirmative, the nature of the action taken by them on the same ;

(*f*) whether the ex-Director, Mr. Sankara Menon, has recommended the enhancement of grant to this Vaidyasala ; and

(*g*) whether the Department has given enhancement of grant to any other Vaidyasala which is junior to this Vaidyasala ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) 1102 M. E.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes ; one.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The recommendation could not be sanctioned for want of funds.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) Yes. Length of service is not the only criterion for giving enhancement of grant to Vaidyans.

Selection of " St. Antony of Padua " as a text-book.

241. ✻ **MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF** (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that " St. Antony of Padua ", a text-book prescribed for use in School Final Class, contains statements abusing the Holy Prophet Muhamad and Islam ;

(*b*) who is responsible for selection of this as a text-book ;

(*c*) whether they are aware that agitation is going on among the Muslim community regarding this book (St. Antony of Padua) ; and

(*d*) whether they have taken any action to remedy the wounded feelings of the Muslim community in this respect ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) :

(*a*) No ; there are, however, some passages in the book which may be considered objectionable by Muslims.

(*b*) The School Leaving Certificates Board.

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[Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan.]

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) A notification has been published by the Director of Public Instruction in the Gazette to the effect that the pages in the book objected to should be omitted.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : May I know whether the book has been approved by the Text-Book Committee ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : May I know from the Director whether, apart from the notification referred to in part (*d*) of the answer, the Director has instructed all the Head Masters and teachers to omit those objectionable passages ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether any scholar, outside the Text Book Committee, has studied the book and expressed opinion on it ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the name of such scholar ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Rao Sahib Ollor S. Paramesvara Aiyar, a well-known Malayalam scholar.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Has he depreciated the book or appreciated it ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : He has given a glowing testimonial to the author.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know how he has done it ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : This is the testimonial, Sir.

> "My dear Mr. John, I have read with great interest your Life of Saint Antony of Padua written in beautiful Malayalam. It is a valuable addition to the biographical literature of Kerala. There are interesting episodes in the lives of several early Christian Saints which our country can certainly read and benefit by. I wish you every success".

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Arising from that, may I ask whether the person referred to recommended it as a text-book ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : I cannot say.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether anybody outside the Text-Book Committee has any right or privilege whatsoever to recommend any book as a text-book ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : No, Sir.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether responsible journals published reviews on this book before it was submitted to the Text-Book Committee?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, Sir.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether any representation was made to the Director or to the Text-Book Committee, before this book was prescribed as a text-book, objecting to its being prescribed as a text-book?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, Sir.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I point out that such testimonials are often given to every beginner in authorship and therefore should not be made the basis for such books being prescribed as text-books?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I never said, Sir, that that testimonial was the basis for the book being prescribed as a text-book. In fact, I knew of the testimonial long after the book was prescribed as a text-book.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Was there any complaint, that there are objectionable passages in the book, before the book was prescribed as a text-book?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, Sir.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether the author of this book was known as an author except for this book?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I believe so, Sir.

Boat Basin for Alleppey.

242. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have sanctioned the construction of a Boat Basin for the protection of sea-going lighters in Alleppey, and if so, when they propose to carry out the work?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. The work will be taken in hand when funds for the purpose become available.

Duty on Coir matting imported into Australia.

243. *MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the enhancement of duty on coir matting imported into Australia, and, if so, what action they have taken to bring about a reduction in the rate of import duty?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. The Government of India were requested to move for a reduction in the rate of duty on coir matting imported into Australia, and they have replied to say that the points raised have been noted by them for consideration, if and when negotiations are undertaken for the conclusion of a trade agreement with Australia.

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